STATE OF THE TRIBE

FISCAL YEAR 2021
TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN
*Please note many photos throughout this State of the Tribe Report are at various stages of the pandemic.
As I prepare to issue the annual Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ State of the Tribe Report for fiscal year 2021, we are in the midst of the fall and holiday season. At this important time of Thanksgiving, we pause to deliver our sincere prayers of thankfulness for God’s grace, deliverance and blessings that he has bestowed upon our Tribe. During 2021, as we did during 2020, our communities and our people have succeeded in continuing to weather the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we have suffered losses and born tremendous burdens on our families, we remain strong.

Choctaw Self-Determination, personal endurance, meaningful cooperation, willingness to sacrifice for the greater good, and a steadfast belief in the promise that tomorrow holds have all characterized the work that we have achieved this year.

In this State of the Tribe Report, you can see outstanding images and read descriptions of a multitude of projects and accomplishments achieved by Tribal departments, programs and enterprises. Despite ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, we are ably navigating a path, removing roadblocks, and facilitating business growth; and our Choctaw strength continues to shine brightly.

Today, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians remains a leader in community, educational and economic development. We are bringing forward and building upon the decades of Tribal progress that have been the cornerstone of our self-reliance.

We look ahead with great optimism as we are about to enter the new year with very important Tribal projects on our drawing boards, particularly with the construction of new school facilities and Tribal houses. United in purpose and energized by readiness to continue growing in many positive ways, MBCI celebrates this look back at FY21 and anticipates a bountiful new year.

May God continue to bless the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Ben
Tribal Chief
The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is a sovereign nation and the only federally recognized Tribe located in Mississippi. The Choctaw Tribal Government operates under the auspices of the Tribe’s constitution. Ratified in 1945, the Constitution authorized the Tribe’s separation from the State of Mississippi and established a democratic form of Tribal Government with representation from each of the eight recognized Tribal communities. Tribal lands include 34,000 acres in ten different counties in Mississippi and in Lauderdale County, Tennessee. Chief Ben currently serves the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as the 5th and youngest democratically elected Tribal Chief.
RECOGNIZED TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Bogue Chitto / Henning, TN
Bogue Homa
Conehatta
Crystal Ridge
Pearl River
Red Water
Standing Pine
Tucker
Total enrollment of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians: 11,023 (October 12, 2021 – as reported in first quarter FY21 Tribal Council meeting)

### TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 18</td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>1729</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 - 56</td>
<td>3019</td>
<td>3184</td>
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<tr>
<td>57+</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>825</td>
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### TRIBAL WORKFORCE*

#### Tribal Enterprise Workforce
- Chahta Enterprise, Choctaw Fresh Produce, Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise, Choctaw Holding Group (IKBI, Inc., Chahta Construction, Inc., Chahta Services, Inc., Choctaw-Ikhana), Choctaw Residential Center, Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (Silver Star, Golden Moon, Dancing Rabbit, Geyser Falls, Welcome Center, Bok Homa, Dancing Rabbit Inn, Pearl River Graphics)

#### MBCI Tribal Employment
- Tribal Government, Choctaw Health Center, Division of Schools

#### Choctaw Housing Authority

*Denotes Full-time and Part-time
A 17-member Choctaw Tribal Council is the legislative body of the Tribal Government. Each council member is democratically elected in a staggered four-year term. The number of council members from a community is based on population. The Council has legislative and policy-making authority. The Council bi-annually elects three officers, a Vice-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer and Committee Systems Coordinator, who serve additional roles in the Tribal Government.
The Choctaw Tribal Government provides operational management of divisions and programs, financial planning and budgeting, checks-and-balances, human resources oversight, government-to-government relationships, emergency assistance, legal services and more. The successful day-to-day functions provides overall stability for the Tribe and ensures future growth for the next generation of Tribal Members.

BUDGETS

Each year the Office of the Tribal Chief presents Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies and Operations budgets to the Choctaw Tribal Council for review and approval. The Council approved Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Operating Budgets on September 29, 2021. Because of fiscal responsibility and sensible use of available resources, along with an improving Tribal economy, many needs have been addressed following a challenging year impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Program budgets were allowed to return to previous budgetary levels after a year of necessary modifications. Additionally, many one-time funding requests were approved along with pay scale adjustments and compensation plans within the Department of Schools, Early Childhood Education and Public Safety. A Cost-of-Living increase for certain Tribal Government Services Division employees was also approved.

**Tribal Revenue Budgets (FY 20-22)**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue Budget</th>
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<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>$98,833,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$93,103,035</td>
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<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>$103,581,102</td>
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### General Revenue Budget Summary

**FISCAL YEAR 2022**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Revenue Operation Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Projects, Equipment &amp; Facilities</td>
<td>$7,498,336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choctaw Health Department Budget</td>
<td>$66,928,435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indirect Cost Budget</td>
<td>$23,946,109</td>
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</table>

### FY22 Tribal Revenue Budget

- **Government Services**: 21%
- **Education**: 18%
- **Development**: 14%
- **Public Relations**: 3%
- **Tribal Member Services & Distributions**: 33%
- **Regulatory & Elected Officials**: 11%
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

Chief Ben participates in policy round-table session via Zoom with Tribal leaders and Rep. Sharice Davids to discuss congressional funding on the COVID Tribal Relief Fund stimulus bill. COVID-19 has affected Tribal communities in different ways and Chief Ben cited the need for greater flexibility on spending the money so Tribal leaders can better protect and care for their people.

First Lady of Mississippi Elee Reeves and Monica Ritchie, Executive Director of Volunteer Mississippi presented Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben with the Governor’s Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award at a Governor’s Mansion ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi. Chief Ben was recognized for “Outstanding Community Building by a Public Servant” for the many hours of volunteer work he has done with youth, elders and the church community.

Chief Ben participated in the 70th Mississippi Day of Prayer at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson where Mississippi Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gibson read Senate Joint Resolution 14, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 2009. The resolution served as an apology to Native Americans on the wrongs and injustices carried out by the federal government.

Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch visited the Tribe to meet with Chief Ben and make a special donation of PPEs. While in Choctaw she also toured the Chahta Immi Cultural Center with Choctaw Indian Princess Elisah Monique Jimmie.
This year the Mississippi Choctaws joined Indian Country in celebrating and congratulating **Representative Deb Haaland of New Mexico** on her appointment by President Biden and confirmation by Congress to serve as the first Native American Secretary of the Department of Interior.

**MISSISSIPPI HOUSE BILL**

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben traveled to Jackson to Governor Tate Reeves’ Capitol office to witness the ceremonial signing of House Bill 277, which allows for the state to recognize Tribal identification cards as a legal means of personal identification, and House Bill 1230, which is a bill that allows businesses located on Tribal lands to be eligible for certain discretionary Mississippi Development Authority programs.

**HONORING AND REMEMBERING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM**

On Friday, May 28, 2021, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held the Memorial Laying of the Wreath ceremony at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial. Chief Master Sergeant Ricky Alex was the guest speaker. Earlier in the year, Alex, was promoted to Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force in a pinning ceremony at Thompson Field in Jackson.
NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN
Tribal Elections were held in June for several council positions. Angela Hundley of Bogue Chitto, Kent Wesley of Pearl River, Gregory Shoemake of Conehatta and Demando Mingo of Tucker were newly elected, while incumbents Kendall Wallace of Bogue Chitto, Hilda Nickey of Conehatta, Christopher Eaves of Crystal Ridge, Deborah Martin of Pearl River and Loriann Ahshapanek of Standing Pine were re-elected. During the regular call Tribal Council meeting on July 13, 2021, MBCI Supreme Court Chief Justice Kevin Briscoe administered the Oath of Office to swear-in these individuals to their office.

SEMINOLE CHAIRMAN VISITS CHOCTAW
Chief Ben presents Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman Marcellus Osceola, Jr. with a pair of handcrafted stickball sticks while the Chairman was in Choctaw for an official visit.
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
Tribal Government Services staff have worked tirelessly to provide emergency and relief support to Tribal members.

FY2021
COVID & Emergency Assistance provided to Tribal Members
$1,407,975

Winter Storm/ COVID Relief
$1,593,500

PROCLAMATIONS, DECLARATIONS AND EMERGENCY ORDERS
• 3 Executive Orders and State of Emergencies issued by Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben for weather and pandemic related issues
• 73 extensions in FY21 of the Tribe’s Executive Order and State of Emergency in response to ongoing public health concerns posed by COVID-19
• 11 extensions in FY21 of the State of Public Health Emergency Declaration
RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

**CHO 22-005** – A Resolution to provide a three percent (3%) Cost-of-Living increase for Tribal Government Services Division employees of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians other than elected officials and employees who have been provided recent salary adjustments.

**CHO 21-094** – A Resolution approving a revised Education Pay Scale providing annual salary increases for all certified staff within the Choctaw Tribal School System.

**CHO 21-129** – A Resolution to adopt a competitive pay scale for the Department of Public Safety for the recruitment and retention of police officers and detention officers.

**CHO 21-129** – A Resolution to provide a three percent (3%) Cost-of-Living increase for the Division of Early Childhood Education to ensure competitive pay rates.
ICE STORM 2021
The Tribe experienced a harsh winter with occurrences of snow, ice, power outages and fallen trees. With COVID-19 still present on Tribal lands, many residents sheltered in places during the inclement weather and a rare ice storm in February.

Emergency Assistance Provided to Support Recovery Efforts
Chief Ben authorized a one-time emergency assistance of $250 to help Tribal Members stay COVID safe while recovering from the wintry weather.
Tribal Council Resolution 21-093 authorized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Direct Assistance for Tribal Members enrolled as of June 24, 2021 and for Planning Purposes.

Tribal Council Resolution 22-006 Authorized MBCI’s Strategic Plan and Funding Budget Allocated under ARPA.

The major expenditures of the ARPA Funds are for:

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO TRIBAL MEMBERS
Direct assistance is $3,000 per individual Tribal Member. Additional funds were allocated for COVID-19 death benefit pending determination of heir(s), with a June 24, 2022 deadline.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
The current high school was built in 1963 and is 58 years old. Due to the age of the building and the cost of upkeep and continued maintenance, a new school will reduce operational costs and provide a safe environment for students.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
Housing development in Tribal communities will help families move into their own home. Chief Ben’s goal to build 100 homes has already begun with meetings in developmental planning.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
The equipment Public Works currently has in utilities, water, and sewage for community needs will need to be upgraded to maintain output capacity.

IT UPGRADES
Upgrade firewalls for better protection of networks, Ransomware protected data and back-up storage, and overdue network upgrades.
## APPROVED ARPA BUDGET EXPENDITURES

### REQUESTED EXPENDITURES

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<tr>
<th>Direct Assistance to Tribal Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Construction</td>
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<td>Housing Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chahta Laundry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT Upgrades</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERF FF&amp;E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Discretionary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees: Architect, Accountant, Business &amp; Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Infrastructure Needs</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWF Investments</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Acquisitions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BALANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$127,000,000</strong></td>
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</table>
The Tribe is known for its economic success story and progressive vision. Collaborative efforts by a team of dedicated professionals continue to build opportunities and provide important additions and improvements on Tribal lands for Tribal Members, enterprises and business partners.

**REZ NUTRITION**
Choctaw Town Center proudly welcomed Rez Nutrition with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new tenant is located at 300 Choctaw Town Center and provides delicious loaded teas and protein shakes.

**TUCKER COMMUNITY CEMETERY**
A ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony was held at the new Tucker Community Cemetery. Chief Ben, Tribal Council Representatives, Choctaw Indian Princess, and project partners joined community clergy in prayer to dedicate the new site.

**CHC DRIVE-THRU PHARMACY**
Choctaw Health Center held a groundbreaking photo-op ceremony for a new Drive-Thru Pharmacy. The 200-square foot expansion will be a valuable safety asset for distributing medication to patients and supporting those individuals who have limited mobility.

**TUCKER HOUSING**
A ribbon cutting was held for the newest community housing subdivision in the Tucker community. Attending were Chief Ben, Tribal Council Representatives, Choctaw Indian Princess, Construction Management staff and several homeowners. Attendees toured a home and Chief Ben presented homeowners with a housewarming gift.
CHOCTAW SPORTSPLEX

Two exciting and family-friendly amenities were added to the Sportsplex grounds to round out the numerous recreational offerings at the facility: a refreshing splashpad water feature and an ADA-compliant playground area. These additions will provide families with excellent options for keeping their little ones entertained year-round while older family members are battling it out on the nearby sports fields. Permanent signage was also installed this year, officially designating the facility as “Choctaw Sportsplex.”

REPAIRS TO INDUSTRIAL ROAD

Milling, paving, and striping was completed on this Pearl River main thoroughfare this year. While traveling on this stretch of road had become a rough and bumpy ride, it is now a much more pleasant experience. The repaired roadway runs from the Pearl River Welcome Center on Highway 16 to the Tribal Government headquarters. Similar improvements are planned for numerous other roads across all communities in 2022.

EMERGENCY LOGISTICS CENTER

Construction will be completed by the end of 2021 on the 4,500 square foot Emergency Logistics Center (ELC) at the Choctaw Fire Department in Pearl River. The ELC will provide much-needed storage space for emergency supplies and equipment, food, water, and other related materials. The facility also contains administrative space to be used by emergency management personnel. Having this space dedicated solely to response efforts will greatly enhance the Tribe’s ability to prepare for and respond to emergency situations, including the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.
CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELIEF FACILITY BUILDINGS
Construction will be completed by the end of 2021 on Coronavirus Emergency Relief Facility (CERF) Buildings in each Tribal community and Henning, Tennessee. These multi-purpose and highly adaptable facilities will help the Tribe to continue its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a proactive and convenient presence in each community from which personal protective equipment, food, medicines, vaccines, information, and other needed supplies can be distributed to Tribal Members in an appropriately socially distanced and organized setting. Additionally, in response to numerous requests for “safe spaces” in the communities, the facilities are being constructed to also serve as storm shelters during times of inclement weather. Because the entire buildings are built to shelter standards, any location inside the buildings are appropriate to use for sheltering. The buildings also include administrative and meeting spaces that can be quickly adapted to conform to the need at hand, whether that be emergency response or some other form of non-emergency community outreach or service.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE
A major expansion of warehouse space has been completed at the Food Distribution Center in Pearl River. This expansion provides relief for a facility that had reached its limits and needed room to grow. Tribal Members will see improved services and product availability in the coming months as this facility becomes fully stocked and operational.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS - CRYSTAL RIDGE
Residents of the Crystal Ridge Community saw repairs and improvements to the community’s softball field and facility building this year. Each year, Tribal Government sets aside funding for projects such as these as requested by community representatives.
PEARL RIVER EARLY CHILDHOOD FACILITY ADDITION
An exciting and creative undertaking at the beginning of FY 2021 saw Tribal Government staff from several departments work together to facilitate an education-focused new market tax credit transaction that provided funding for the construction of additional classrooms and storage space at the Pearl River Early Childhood Facility. Transactions of this type allow outside investors to contribute revenue to qualified recipients’ projects in exchange for reduced tax liabilities of their own. A portion of the savings realized then come to the Tribe for its own use – in this case, to create additional educational facility space. The ability to capitalize on sophisticated financial opportunities such as this one is a testament to the capabilities of our Tribal Government and demonstrates that outside investors are confident in MBCI’s financial integrity and stability.

CONEHATTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SLOPE FAILURE
Planning and engineering design were completed on a project to repair an earthen slope failure just east of Conehatta Elementary School during FY 2021. Bids have been received for construction of this repair and work will begin before the end of 2021. The project will restore stability to the slope and will replace several hundred feet of failed storm water piping.

ELDER ROOFING AND DRIVEWAY REPAIRS
The popular elder roofing and driveway repairs initiative continued this year, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 labor and material shortages. This program remains active and qualifying Tribal Members can submit applications to the Tribal Maintenance Department at their convenience. Tribal Members should contact the Maintenance Department at (601) 656-9742 to apply.

CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIRGROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS
The absence of the Choctaw Indian Fair in 2020 created much excitement and anticipation for the return of the CIF in 2021. In response, many long-needed improvements were made to the Fairgrounds. Notable projects included upgrades at the Dance grounds, Entertainment House, Main Stage/Amphitheater area, new customized ticket booths, video screens at Impah Village and extensive repairs to several fairgrounds’ facilities/features.
**NATURAL GAS CONVERSIONS**
Throughout 2021, the equipment at numerous Tribal Government and Tribal enterprise facilities was converted from propane to natural gas. This project will continue through 2022, as all convertible equipment will be switched to use natural gas. The conversion to natural gas promises to benefit the Tribe through significantly reduced energy costs.

**HOUSING WORKGROUP**
During FY 2021, a Housing Workgroup was formed with representatives of Choctaw Housing Authority, Tribal Government, and outside professional housing experts as its members. This group is working to develop a comprehensive strategy that will identify housing development sites in each community, affordable housing floorplans and construction methods, and creative and efficient funding mechanisms for the broad range of potential Tribal Member homebuyers, owners, and renters. This plan will be completed by the end of 2021, with housing construction slated to begin early in 2022.

**COUNTY ROAD 604 SUBDIVISION**
An ambitious plan to construct at least 100 homes across all Tribal communities is underway. In Pearl River, a large parcel of land has been cleared on County Road 604 in preparation for site development activities, including lot grading, road construction, and utility installation. Additional housing sites have been identified in all communities and site work will begin at those locations in late 2021 and early 2022.

**TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**
The Tribe’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update was started this year and should be completed by the end of 2021. The LRTP is critical for planning improvements to the Tribe’s roadway network and is used extensively by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal Highway Administration, and Congress to determine transportation funding needs for the Tribe. This year’s update will be the first since 2008 and will include a first-ever MBCI roads electronic database that will make prioritizing improvement needs much more efficient.

**PARKING ADDITIONS/EXPANSIONS**
Responding to numerous requests for additional parking areas to serve Tribal Members and employees, several parking lot expansions were initiated during FY 2021. These expanded facilities are at Pearl River Elementary School, the Offices of the Attorney General and Construction Management, the Office of Public Information, and Food Distribution.
TRIBAL MAINTENANCE
The Tribal Maintenance Office saw a return to more “normal” operations during 2021, as the effects of COVID-19 began to subside. During FY 2021, a total of 3,043 work requests were submitted to the Tribal Maintenance office. These requests included both residential and government facility requests.

TRIBAL TRAFFIC SAFETY PLAN
A tribal traffic safety plan was initiated in FY 2021. Tribal staff, along with an outside engineering consultant have been working over the past few months to gather traffic safety data for all Tribal roads, including County and State routes that cross into Tribal lands. Once this study is completed in early 2022, the Tribe will be qualified to receive funding from the Federal Department of Transportation to correct safety hazards identified during the study investigation. This will mark the first time that MBCI has developed a safety plan specifically for its own roadway network.

TRIBAL ROAD CONDITION SURVEYS
A comprehensive inspection of all Tribal roads was conducted over FY 2021. The results of this study are currently being tabulated and a road repair/restoration project will be initiated as soon as condition rankings are complete. Tribal Members can look forward to much-needed road improvements over the coming months as prioritized projects are initiated in each community.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES STORIED SUCCESS

UPGRADES UNDERWAY ON COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES
The Tribe manages more than 800,000 square feet of commercial and industrial rental properties. These facilities range from 20 – 40 years old and are all in need of upgrades and repairs. The Office of Economic Development has coordinated efforts to install energy-efficient lighting, repair parking lots, replace roofs, and improve broadband access at these locations. This $2 million renovation project started in September 2021 and will be completed in early 2022.

CHOCTAW AMERICAN INSURANCE, INC
The Tribe formed another new business venture in Summer 2021 – Choctaw American Insurance, Inc. This new tribal company is involved in helping potential homeowners to access HUD programs that encourage homeownership. This company will generate business profits, so it is focused on HUD mortgages nationwide rather than just our community. This new company has also completed a few initial transactions and anticipates strong growth in 2022.

MBCI SUPPORTED LEGISLATION LEVELS BUSINESS PLAYING FIELD
The Office of Economic Development recruits new companies to locate their businesses on Tribal lands. The Tribe worked with the State’s elected officials and the Mississippi Development Authority to level the playing field for financial incentives they offer. The Tribe coordinated political efforts to clarify that their key financial incentives are also available to non-Indian businesses that choose to locate on the Choctaw reservation. This initiative was approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor in Spring 2021.
DEVELOPING A CERTIFIED WORKFORCE
The Office of Economic Development identified an opportunity to establish on-the-job training for Tribal Members interested in learning advanced vocational trades. MBCI formed a partnership with the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation to launch three NCCER classes consisting of HVAC, Electrical, and Industrial Controls for a total of 22 students. The Tribe was also able to get two MBCI employees certified as instructors. The goal is to have an NCCER graduation ceremony in Summer 2022—a first for the Tribe.

THOMPSON NAMED AMBASSADOR
Shaunery Thompson, a MBCI Tribal member, was named as one of five ambassadors for the Winston Plywood Ambassador Program. Winston Plywood and Veneer, a state-of-the-art plywood mill located in Louisville, Mississippi, announced the launch of a new initiative to strengthen workforce recruitment and retention. The program recognizes a select group of leaders from across the company for their leadership, dedication, and selfless approach to making Winston an exceptional place to work. This ambassador team will participate in job fairs and community events, share Winston’s culture with potential new hires, and coach new team members during their employment transition.

MORE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES
Choctaw, Mississippi is one of only two communities in the TVA Region to achieve the Certified Rural Community status.

Mississippi Choctaw was included in Trade & Industry Development magazine’s latest issue featuring some of the top sites for economic development!
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Department of Natural Resources manages MBCI and BIA funded programs. Programs provide services ranging from agricultural garden preparation, lawn services to approved elderly and handicapped Tribal Members, youth educational opportunities by experiences, landscape maintenance on Tribal Government properties, and oversee forestry activities on all forested trust acres.

- Serviced 149 Spring Gardens
- Operated Choctaw Farmer’s Market July and August
- Assisted with Grounds Maintenance, storm clean-up and trash removal across tribal lands
- Assisted Choctaw Fresh Produce expansion site work
- Forestry Program removed 621 hazardous trees and various debris from 99 residences. Additionally, 99 trees were removed from buildings, ponds, cemeteries and tower sites
- Processed and reused 105 trees for wake firewood and delivered 44 loads since July 13
- Cut and cleared fallen trees from storm events for 41 days
- Program enrolled 105 4-H members and 84 volunteers
- Landscape and Grounds – 144 Handicap/ Elderly applicants approved, 1,233 yards cut by program
FASTSTART CLASS GREAT SUCCESS
The Tribe’s Small Business Development Center offered a new class to help potential Tribal entrepreneurs develop a business model. Over a six-week period, individuals are given the opportunity to explore the feasibility of their business idea. The program offers a short course in business terms and systems specifically designed to give those with little or no background in business ownership an understanding of the challenges they face.

Local business professionals and those with experience in starting and building a business are brought in as guest speakers to inspire and motivate class participants. Successful entrepreneurs and class guest speakers featured for the first sessions were Kenny Tubby and Edward Rangel.

Class topics include preparing for business ownership, researching business idea, market research, marketing basics, necessity for a CPA, business structure and how best to access money for business. Speakers on these topics included Ronnie Westbrook with ECCC Small Business Development Center, Tribal business consultant Steve Murray, Local Attorney Don Kilgore, Brown Accounting CPA Clint Brown, and Citizens Bank lenders Grant Comans and Sam Mars.

When the six-week class is complete, students are given a two-week period for completing their business plan and the opportunity to enter into a business plan competition. The winner of this competition wins a prize of $1,000 to use toward their business. The winning funds are a 50/50 donation from local banks and MBCI.

Alicia Wesley was the winner of the first competition and received a $1,000 grant to support her cake decorating business. The Center hosted a second course for another ten Tribal entrepreneurs with Willie Solomon taking home the prize for based on his business plan for a Bar-B-Q food truck concept. As the demand for this class increases the Center is making plans for another round starting in January 2022.
Education is more than academic achievement and must provide learning experiences for all Tribal Members, from infants to elders. It must include not only the intellectual, but the democratic, moral, personal, physical, and social development of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**
The Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) recognizes true success and achievement is only accomplished through the combined efforts of home and school. The DOECE accepts the primary responsibility for guiding the learning process while reinforcing the need for support and involvement from the parents and the community.

- 312 children enrolled in all early childhood facilities with average daily attendance at 75%
- 143 Head Start, 65 Early Head Start and 104 Child Care
- Enrollment and attendance remains down due to COVID
- Every site has a ZONO machine which disinfects and sanitizes surfaces; classrooms are also sprayed two a day with sanitizer
PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement is key to development and engagement in the program. The DOECE staff coordinated various virtual events this year.

- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Social Media Celebration
- Fairytale Ball
- Gingerbread House Social Media Displays
- Virtual Christmas Program
- Fishing Rodeo
- Brave and Princess Pageant
- Tribal School Spirit Week
- Week of the Young Child emphasized Choctaw Culture

Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben made a stop at the Conehatta Early Childhood Center, Pearl River Early Childhood Center and Pearl River Head Start to visit and pass out Loksi cups and goodie bags to students, teachers and staff.
CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS
The Choctaw Tribal School System is fully accredited by the Mississippi Department of Education and by AdvancED. It is the largest Tribally controlled, consolidated school system in the country with six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school with a dorm to house residential students.

Current School Enrollment 2,255
- Bogue Chitto Elementary – 202
- Conehatta Elementary – 249
- Pearl River Elementary– 506
- Red Water Elementary – 172
- Standing Pine Elementary – 140
- Tucker Elementary– 145
- Choctaw Central Middle School – 211
- Choctaw Central High School – 630

STUDENTS AND STAFF EARN HIGH ACHIEVEMENTS
- Choctaw Tribal Schools (CTS) grew 47 points in ELA and Math from the previous administration of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) Assessment in 2019
- CTS rewarded 78 teachers and teacher assistants for growing 50% of their students
- Students showed significant gains on the first 8 weeks benchmark
- Over 2,100 students are attending school every day
- CCHS Lady Warriors Basketball Team Win Division title
TO NOTE IN TRIBAL SCHOOLS

- CTS has hosted COVID Vaccine drives at all schools
- Over 80% of CTS employees are fully vaccinated
- CTS made over 80,000 parent contacts during the 2020-2021 school year and over 21,000 in the first 9 weeks of school during the current school year.
- CTS will be applying to the Mississippi Department of Education to become a District of Innovation
- CTS has implemented a new Dropout Prevention Program
- CTS Parent Center has documented 126,971 contacts with parents of students August 2020 - May 2021
FIVE CTS STUDENTS SCORED PERFECT ON THE 2021 MAAP ASSESSMENT

KINSLEY KING
Conehatta Elementary - 3rd Grade Math

KONLEY ANDERSON
Conehatta Elementary - 4th Grade Math

WYATT CHICKAWAY
Pearl River Elementary - 4th Grade ELA

NYLAH WILSON
Red Water Elementary - 3rd Grade Math
CODING ACADEMY AT CCHS
There is a high demand for workers with computer coding skills. The Office of Economic Development (OED) identified an opportunity to train more tribal youth in computer coding skills. Through a partnership with the Mississippi Coding Academy a pilot program was launched at Choctaw Central High School in the Spring semester. A licensed instructor taught the virtual course after school, and six Choctaw students completed this course. OED is now planning to expand on this success and offer cybersecurity training to students in 2022.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH
Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben signed a proclamation designating February as Career and Technical Education Month. Everyone is encouraged to learn more about the programs located at the Career and Technical Education Center, which is offered to students at CCHS.

HUNTER SEGENHAGEN
Tucker Elementary - 6th Grade ELA
HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS
The MHSAA Fast Pitch Softball 5A State Championship Team from Neshoba Central are Lady Rockets Nautica Bacon, Shante Beaulieu, Annalise Bell, Jeyda Ben, Hama’ya Fielder, Tenly Grisham, Lanayah Henry, Sa’Nya Jackson, Mauhree Jones, Erica Lyons, Daylynn Mingo, Charrmayne Morris, Layana Morris, Keirstyn Thomas, Chloe Thompson, Elleigh Willis, and Mya Willis.

The MHSAA Class II State Bowling Champions are Neshoba Central High School Lady Rockets featuring top bowler Allie Williams and Kathryn Dreifuss. Connor Jimmie holds the Runner-up trophy for the Neshoba Central Rockets Bowling Team.

The Lake High School Lady Hornets win the MHSAA Fast Pitch Softball 2A State Championship. Team members include Lyric Lay and Alyssa Sockey.

BACKPACKS FOR GRADUATING CLASS
The Office of the Tribal Chief presented backpacks to high school and higher learning graduates in the Class of 2021.

FIRST PITCH
Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team’s first home game.

CCHS CLASS OF 2021 TOP 10 SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY
Valedictorian Sierra Wallace
Salutatorian Brannon Jim
Meloney Thames
Isley Mingo
Laliana Crosby
Traiton Martin
Kearson Grisham
Leilani Charlie
Jaiden Thomas
Kyler Jefferson
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
The Choctaw Workforce Development Program provides services to students and clients for educational advancement, job training, and job placement opportunities for eligible Tribal Members. From job fairs, online employment postings, various training programs and continued learning opportunities, the Workforce Development Program has proven to be a great resource for Tribal Members.

Senior Community Services Program for Elders 55 and Up
- Currently there are 38 trainees in the program with a total of 6 trainees obtaining full-time jobs this past year

The Career & Technical Education Program
- Serviced a total of 75 Tribal Member students with 41 completing their chosen program of study in FY 2021

The Employment Assistance Program
- Serviced a total of 47 Tribal Member students. Of those students, 14 attended local community colleges while 33 earned Certificates of Completion with the program’s Workforce Development classes

The Vocational & Employment Services Program
- Selected a total of 133 Tribal Member applicants. Of those applicants 100 were placed in work settings with 20 obtaining employment. In addition, direct employment assistance was also provided for 100 Tribal Members

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Program
- Served 20 adults and employed 18

The Native American Works
- Served 19 participants and employed 16 adults
The Supplemental Youth Service Program
• Served 26 participants with 20 youth completing all requirements which made them eligible to receive a bonus

The Adult Basic Education Program
• Has classrooms in all eight Tribal communities and served 50 Tribal Members this past year with 2 successfully graduating! Additionally, ABE provided
• Provided tax assistance services to 1,497 Tribal Members
• Provided services for Mississippi State Income Tax preparation plus Reservation exclusion to 924 Tribal Members
• Assisted 36 people with drivers education materials
• Provided childcare services for 12 parents attending ABE classes

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
• 118 Tribal Members Received Individualized Services; 33 Tribal Members transitioned from services into employment opportunities
• Hosted and attended multiple job fairs; provided virtual outreach to various clients
• 33 individuals left services into employment opportunities

Day Training Program
• 156 trainees currently active with 45 trainees becoming employed this past year; 21 trainees have been employed for six months or longer
• Pilot project in partnership with CCHS to support students at risk of vacating high school diploma. Program had 4 initial students with 2 graduating
TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIPS FY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

2,865 TRIBAL MEMBERS FUNDED SINCE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM

36 GRADUATES
- 6 Certificates
- 15 Associates Degrees
- 18 Bachelors Degrees
- 4 Masters Degrees
- 3 Students earned multiple degrees at once

CURRENTLY FUNDING 339 STUDENTS
- 6 Dual Credit
- 6 Certificates
- 120 Bachelors Degrees
- 156 Bachelors Degrees
- 40 Masters Degrees
- 4 Specialist Degrees
- 7 Doctoral Degrees
- 254 Full-time Students
- 79 Part-time Students
- 6 Dual Credit
- 97 Different Colleges/Universities
- 135 Different Majors
- 64 Potential Graduates for 2021-2022

34 STUDENT ATHLETES
- 4 Baseball
- 16 Basketball
- 10 Softball
- 1 Cross Country
- 2 Football
- 3 Soccer
- 21 Different Colleges/Universities
- 2 Students play 2 sports

2,865 TRIBAL MEMBERS FUNDED SINCE INCEPTION OF THE PROGRAM
Tribal Member Services

Programs under the Tribal Member Services Division continues to provide direct and essential services to members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. From newborn, to families, to elders, these programs provide a variety of healthcare, safety, comfort, nutrition, recreation and other services essential to the quality of life in our communities.
BY THE NUMBERS

Family and Community Services:
• Choctaw Children’s Advocacy Center conducted 73 forensic interviews and 51 therapeutic services
• Family Violence and Victim’s Services had 33 intakes with 19 emergency protection orders. Case Managers assisted 19 clients. Nittak Himmona Shelter provided safe haven to 20 individuals and therapeutic services to 44 members. In FY21, a total of 104 vulnerable adult cases were on file

Elderly Nutrition:
• Elderly Nutrition has 814 applicants - of those 121 are new
• The program resumed on-site food service through curbside pick-up serving a total of 17,845 meals
• Approximately 400 packages which included non-perishable food items, sanitation and safety supplies were distributed during Older Americans Month
• Goodie bags, seasonal food items, games, plants and holiday items were also provided to elders throughout the year
• A total of 704 Choctaw Indian Fair elder tickets were distributed

Food Distribution:
• Food Distribution has 775 participants and 371 certified households
• The program has implemented a new pack and go method for on-site pick-up in Pearl River and provided a new monthly newsletter for clients
• A new Supplemental Food Grant through USDA bonus CARES Act was secured
• Work on the expansion of the Food Distribution Warehouse is near completion

Veteran’s Affairs:
• Assisted 30 veterans with VA appointments
• Received 70 call-in quests for various administrative support
• Currently working to obtain Certification for Veteran’s Service Officer

Assistance Services
• Served 295 clients in FY21
• Awarded New Low Income Household Water Assistance Program
• Quarter Blood Children Ministry: Assistance Services Program staff helped ministry group to coordinate Christmas gifts for those children who are of quarter Choctaw blood quantum
Children and Family Services hosted the 2021 Shots 4 Tots Charity Golf Tournament to benefit foster children in the community. The tournament had great participation and raised $19,632.65!

Choctaw Recreation
- Sports returned in 2021 after temporary shut-down due to COVID
- The Tribe hosted the State Games of Mississippi Kabotcha Toli Tournament
- MBCI also hosted the NAYO tournament in July at the CCHS and Tribal ballfields
- Chief’s Summer Slam Softball Tourney Returns for its 3rd Edition at the Choctaw Sportsplex
Department of Chahta Immi
Cultural Affairs, Choctaw Tribal Language, Chahta Immi Cultural Center, Special Projects/Media Program
• Served 580,038 individuals
• Conducted 34 Presentations/Events
• Hosted 2 workshops
• Outreach Program for Cultural Education with 18 Traveling Exhibits
• Worked with 233 Tribal Artisans
• Provided services for 634 Tribal Employees
• Participated in 31 Partnerships
• Produced 525 Multi-Media projects
  o Updated edition of the Choctaw Social Ceremonial Life of the Choctaws
  o Produced Children’s Cultural Videos about the Alphabet
• Distributed 7,529 Language/Culture Materials
  o Worked on 99 translation projects
  o Distributed 7,529 educational materials and 132 products
**Choctaw Fire Department**

- Continues to serve as a primary logistic supplier in the fight against COVID by supplying over 100,000 facemasks, 3,000 gallons of hand sanitizer, 300 gallons of bleach and cleaner, 100 cases of medical gloves, 245 cases of face shields and other PPE
- Expanded American Heart Association Training Center to include over 115 instructors; taught over 40 CPR classes and issued over 500 cards to students on Tribal Lands and another 2,500 cards to students around the state
- Working toward the completion of the Tribal wide radio communications upgrade to the Statewide MSWIN (MS Wireless Interoperability Network) radio trunking system
- Continued Education, Training and Certification for employees – Fire Inspector, Driver Operator, Emergency Medical Tech., Dive Rescue and Basic firefighter
- Provided many hours of medical and fire standby at special events such as Choctaw Indian Fair, sports tournaments, Nanih Waiya Day and others
- Long overdue upgrades to medical equipment such as new cardiac monitors, AED defibrillators, video laryngoscopes and equipment bags
- Fire equipment upgrades include battery powered smoke ejector fans, battery powered extrication equipment for vehicle accidents and forcible entry. All new portable radios with extended range and increased interoperability
Choctaw Emergency Management

- Choctaw EMA continues to support the Emergency Support Functions in the response to COVID-19
- Ensured ample inventory in COVID supplies by partnering with other agencies
- Helped coordinate response to winter ice storm, supplying generators, fuel, food, water, transportation, and assisting with shelters
- Prepared for Hurricane Ida which did major damage in LA and Southwest MS.
- EMA helped coordinate purchase of new communications system to most departments and programs on the reservation lands. Over 1,000 radios were purchased. Additional communication towers to improve performance in outlying communities in the works
- EMA has added outdoor warning sirens in Bogue Homa while automating and updating software and hardware on the entire system

Choctaw Public Safety

- 689 Adult arrests and 32 Juvenile arrests
- 6,563 calls for service October 2020 - August 2021
- 201 Animal Control Calls
- 61 Wildlife calls
- 134 Instances of Assistance with Choctaw Police Department/ Citizens
**Choctaw Health Center**

Critical Care Response Team Returns

Choctaw Health Center welcomed back the Indian Health Services (IHS) Critical Care Response Team (CCRT) to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) to provide on-going training and education pertaining to COVID-19 to our healthcare team.

**Healing Garden**

Choctaw Behavioral Health, Choctaw Health Center officials, Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben, Tucker Tribal Council Representative Wilma Simpson-McMillan, 2019-2021 Choctaw Indian Princess Elisah Monique Jimmie, and William Dan Isaac and the Southern Pine Drum Group gathered together to bless and officially open the new Healing Garden on the Choctaw Health Center campus. Behavioral Health plans to incorporate the Healing Garden as part of its overall approach to wellness. They recognize that a person’s wellbeing must be viewed through the body, mind and spirit.

**Mobile Unit**

Choctaw Health Center (CHC) received its mobile unit in August. The unit is an extension of CHC and provides personnel the paramount resource of mobile health to serve patients offsite. The vehicle incorporates beadwork designs on the exterior to give the vehicle a Choctaw feel to it. On hand to receive the mobile unit were Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben and CHC officials.
Drive-Thru Pharmacy Groundbreaking
A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Choctaw Health Center (CHC) drive-thru pharmacy site. The drive-thru will be a valuable safety asset for distributing medication to patients, especially during this pandemic. Additionally, the drive-thru would be beneficial to patients with limited mobility. The 200 square-foot expansion, designed by Singleton Architects, costs approximately $385,000, which is funded by HHS-Provider Relief Funding, a grant provided for Tribal hospitals, clinics and urban health centers to support the response to COVID-19.

Healthplex at the Choctaw Indian Fair
The CHC teamed with the Choctaw Indian Fair in a community outreach project known as “Flex at the Plex.” The Healthplex, located at the Pearl River Community Center on the Fairgrounds was a great success. The “Plex” featured CHC programs and other affiliated partners all teaming up to provide PPE to visitors and educational materials on stopping the spread of COVID-19 and other health related topics. COVID-19 vaccinations were also offered to individuals 12 years or older. Numerous prize packages were made available for Tribal Members who registered at the Plex.
Unity Walk Returns
The SDPI Program held the 14th Annual Unity Walk/ Run on June 26, 2021 in conjunction with a Public Health COVID-19 Vaccination drive for eligible MBCI Tribal Members.

Give Kids a Smile
Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben signed a Proclamation for “Give Kids a Smile” for the month of February.
Alta tik says “Cover your coughs and sneezes.”
**CHC Notables**

- DNV - Accreditation
  - CHC was successfully re-accredited during an unannounced site survey from Det Norske Veritas (DNV). CHC is ensuring quality and safe care to tribal communities and patients
- New Optometrist, Dr. Johnson, Joins CHC Full-time
- CHC welcomed Dr. Veronica Johnson as Interim Chief Medical Officer
- CHC developed and is implementing a phased re-opening plan for hospital and clinic operations
- Total visits during FY21 – 263,354 (as compared to last year FY20 at 229,304)
- Awarded and received COVID-19 funding in the amount of $65 Million+.
- CHC exceeded any previous year billing and collections during FY2021 with a 25% revenue increase
- CT Machine Replacement – CHC purchased a new CT to provide state of the art technology to help care for patients and those in need of the services
- Telehealth Options are available to Tribal Members including tele-mental health services, telephone clinics and electronic referrals
- Due to COVID-19 safety guidelines, visitor restrictions were implemented causing hardships on families and inpatient care. To negate this issue, iPads were provided for an inpatient to communicate with family members
- CHC toured guests from the Northern Arapaho Tribe and provided insight on the successes and best practices in healthcare
• CHC participated in a number of great partnerships during this time of global crisis including Indian Health Services, Mississippi Department of Health, G.V. Sonny Montgomery Veterans Affairs, United South and Eastern Tribes, National Indian Health Board, Neshoba General Hospital, Philadelphia-Neshoba County COVID-19 Taskforce, among others.
• Service Awards were held for 67 CHC staff members honoring them for the commitment and years of service.

WORKFORCE STATS

372
Total Personnel

19
COVID-19 Hires
THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Testing in Tribal communities are an important part in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Drive through events at CHC and specific community pop-up testing sites were available in 2020-2021.

COVID Testing
Choctaw Tribal Schools engaged in surveillance testing.

Resort Walk-Thru
CHC provided assistance with COVID-19 safety protocols and/or disinfection spraying for resort activities, tribal programs and other tribal facilities.
VACCINE AVAILABLE FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

The Choctaw Health Center received the first shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine from Indian Health Services in December. CHC was the first hospital in Neshoba County to take receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine following the Food and Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorization.

A Vaccine Task Force was created to lead COVID-19 vaccine activities for CHC and the Choctaw community. The group is comprised of key leaders from multi-disciplinary departments of CHC and Tribal Government employees working alongside Indian Health Services officials. The Task Force works to develop vaccine activities and implement plans for the safe and equitable delivery of the vaccine to members of the Tribe.

First public vaccine event is hosted for Tribal Elders in January to offer protection and peace-of-mind.

A Vaccine Task Force was created to lead COVID-19 vaccine activities for CHC and the Choctaw community. The group is comprised of key leaders from multi-disciplinary departments of CHC and Tribal Government employees working alongside Indian Health Services officials. The Task Force works to develop vaccine activities and implement plans for the safe and equitable delivery of the vaccine to members of the Tribe.
Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben received his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Chief Ben, Tribal Council Representatives and community health officials encourage everyone to roll up their sleeves to receive the vaccine as the best defense against the COVID-19 virus.

“I encourage all of you to get the COVID vaccine shot. Take the step to not only protect yourself, but also your loved ones and your community.”

- Tribal Chief Cyrus Ben
CHC, MBCI, & Resort Teamed Up in March to Host First Mass COVID-19 Vaccination Drive for Members and Employees. Cash Incentives were offered to all who get first and second doses ($50 per shot). Goal is to reach community immunity to save lives of our people.

Public Health Offers Routine Community Vaccine Opportunities

VACCINATION DATA OF CHC USER POPULATION
(as of September 30, 2021)

FULLY VACCINATED
3,967

PARTIALLY VACCINATED
921
COVID-19 AWARENESS AND MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On Friday, March 12, 2021, a proclamation signing for COVID-19 Pandemic Awareness Day and a memorial dedication ceremony was held at the COVID-19 Memorial at Lake Pushmataha. Chief Ben, Tribal Council members, and special guest, cross maker Pamela Morrow, unveiled the “hunky cross” as the central part of the newly-built COVID-19 Memorial.
THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF
CHOCTAW INDIANS
COVID-19 MEMORIAL
DEDICATED TO THE LIVES OF THOSE
LOST TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

MBCI COVID-19 ISHT AYIKHANA (MEMORIAL)
ILAPPAT ILLILIH COVID-19 OKLAH ISHT
ABIKAT ILLITOK ALHIHA AKQ
ISHT AHOLITOBLIH OKIH.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD"
Psalm 31:24

This Cross was donated by Pandel Minsun in the MBCI to honor victims of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Hauly Cross Project is a community-wide effort led by Mr. Moore in memory of his son, Andale Moore, where he serves as the chairman of this project. Nine cedar crosses were built and donated in tribute of his loved ones.
The Pearl River Resort rebounded this past year after the COVID shutdown. The Resort’s performance shows one of the best years yet and is even exceeding profits from pre-pandemic years.
BestUSCasinos.org featured Pearl River Resort and showcased the Top Ten attractions and activities at or near our Hotel and Casino properties!

Pearl River Resort’s own Erica Clemons Moore was selected for inclusion in the Mississippi Business Journal’s list of Top Leading Businesswomen in Mississippi for 2021! Ms. Moore serves as Director of Public Relations, Guest Services, Internal Communication and Special Projects for the Resort.

**Resort Welcome Center Rebranded**
The Welcome Center at Pearl River Resort underwent an extensive renovation and rebranding effort this year. The Center is now offering the Shell Gasoline product line. Some of the projects at the newly reopened Welcome Center include:

- Installing signage and other materials
- Replacing underground fuel lines
- Replacing old fuel dispensers
- Completing interior and exterior renovations to the building structure
Mama ‘n’ Em Southern Table and Bar
The Pearl River Resort celebrated the grand opening of new restaurant, Mama ‘n’ Em Southern Table and Bar. The menu is very diverse with selections from fresh seafood such as redfish and oysters to southern favorites like fried chicken, dumplings, meatloaf, and thick cut bologna sandwiches. The establishment, located in the Golden Moon Casino, offers guests dine-in and carry-out options.
Curb Appeal at Dancing Rabbit
Dancing Rabbit Inn and Dancing Rabbit Golf Course added to their curb appeal by updating the sense of arrival with beautiful new signage and landscape features at the entrance to the award-winning property.